Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In peace and in conflict, ships and seafarers have held a special place in our nation's history; and,

Whereas, We, as people and as a nation, owe a debt of gratitude to all who have served us; and,

Whereas, Every minute of every day, this nation continues to benefit from the dedication, loyalty and work of the American Merchant Marine; and,

Whereas, On May 22, 1819, the American steam vessel, S.S. Savannah, sailed from Savannah, Georgia, to Liverpool, England, commencing the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean using steam propulsion; and,

Whereas, By a joint congressional resolution passed in 1933, May 22 was designated as National Maritime Day; and,

Whereas, During World War II, more than 250,000 members of the American Merchant Marine served their country, with more than 9,750 giving their lives, hundreds being detained as prisoners of war, and over 800 ships being sunk or damaged while providing a wide range of supplies to the troops; and,

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 22, 2005, as

MARITIME DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of May in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State